

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Allowable dependent claims 9, 10 and 13 have been rewritten as new independent claims 15, 16 and 17, respectively.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite the first and second sloping portions 26, 27 of the upper surface. The first sloping portion extends from the land and extends to a central floor portion of the upper surface. The second sloping portion is formed in the first sloping portion adjacent the corner region and is spaced inwardly from the land. The angle of inclination of the first sloping portion is greater than an angle of inclination of the second sloping portion.

In contrast to the insert defined by claim 8, the insert disclosed by Hansson et al. has a flat top surface, i.e., there is no first sloping surface in which the second sloping surface is disposed. As noted in the last sentence on page 5 of the present application, a goal of the invention is to reduce the contact between the chips and the insert's surface during cutting, so that crater wear effect can be deferred. That goal is achieved by making a portion of the land of smaller width than another portion thereof, and by providing the first sloping surface 26 which separates the land from the chip breaking second sloping surface 27. Hansson et al. does not disclose such a structure.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 8 distinguishes patentably over Hansson et al.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 

Alan E. Kopecki
Registration No. 25,813

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: September 15, 2003